

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SAM-01 SP-02 ARAE-00

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O R 241425Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4139

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1645

FOR USDEL SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOR ASS'T SECRETARY ROGERS AND FUNSETH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SILVEIRA'S CONCERN ABOUT TENDENTIOUS AP STORY

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA THE FOLLOWING AP DESPATCH IN PORTUGUESE DATED FEBRUARY 23 WITH DATELINE BOGOTA. SILVEIRA SENT THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL NOTE TO ME WITH THE TICKER ITEM: "I BEG YOU TO ASK HENRY -- IF IT IS POSSIBLE IMMEDIATELY -- HOW I SHOULD ANSWER BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERMEN ABOUT THE ENCLOSED DESPATCH".

2. TEXT OF DESPATCH: IN SPITE OF HIS MANY OCCUPATIONS, SOME OF THEM OF A PRIVATE NATURE, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER STILL HAD TIME TO MEET SECRETLY IN RIO DE JANEIRO WITH EIGHT YOUNG BRAZILIAN INTELLECTUALS TO DISCUSS THE ACCUSATIONS OF REPRESSION WHICH HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN RAISED AGAINST THE REGIME OF THAT COUNTRY.

ACCORDING TO THE HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHO IS ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY IN HIS TOUR THROUGH LATIN AMERICA, KISSINGER'S MEETING WITH THE INTELLECTUALS TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY NIGHT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM A BRIEF VISIT TO A SAMBA SCHOOL WHERE THE U.S.

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DIPLOMAT WAS ABLE TO SEE WHAT THE BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL WOULD BE LIKE.

IN SPITE OF THE SHORT TIME THAT HE HAD TO REST, THE SECRETARY MADE A POINT OF MEETING WITH THE YOUNG INTELLECTUALS.

ACCORDING TO THE HIGH U.S. OFFICIAL, THE SECRETARY MADE THE APPOINTMENT AS PART OF HIS EFFORT TO ADVANCE, IN A PRIVATE WAY, HIS OPINION THAT BRAZIL SHOULD MOVE TOWARD A LESS AUTHORITARIAN REGIME. THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED WAS NOT DIVULGED.

THE INTERVIEW MAY IN PART APPEAR SOMEWHAT PARADOXICAL SINCE THE SECRETARY LAVISHED PRAISE ON BRAZILIAN POLICY TO THE POINT OF HAVING RECEIVED CRITICISM FROM A U.S. NEWSPAPER, THE NEW YORK TIMES, WHICH CONSIDERED KISSINGER'S IDEA OF CALLING BRAZIL A "SUPER POWER" UNFORTUNATE. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. NEWSPAPER, KISSINGER'S REFERENCE MIGHT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS FAVORABLE TO RIGHTIST DICTATORSHIPS.

IN ADDITION TO THIS SECRET MEETING, THE 18-HOUR STOP IN RIO DE JANEIRO CLEARLY MARKED THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WHO BESIDES DINING WITH PERSONAL FRIENDS ALSO HAD LUNCH ON SUNDAY WITH RAQUEL WELCH, THE AMERICAN ACTRESS, AN OLD FRIEND OF THE SECRETARY'S.

THE ACTRESS IS AT PRESENT TOURING BRAZIL AS A SINGER.

END TEXT.

3. I WILL MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO SILVEIRA:

A. THE AP REPORT IS OBVIOUSLY INACCURATE.

B. THERE WAS NOTHING SECRET ABOUT THE DINNER IN THE SECRETARY'S SUITE, WHICH TOOK PLACE BEFORE NOT AFTER THE VISIT TO THE SAMBA SCHOOL.

C. THE BRAZILIAN GUESTS AT THE DINNER (WHOM I SHALL
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ENUMERATE TO SILVEIRA) INCLUDED PRESENT AND PAST OFFICIALS OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AND TWO YOUNG PHD'S TRAINED IN THE U.S.

D. THE SECRETARY'S ORIGINAL HOPE HAD BEEN TO MEET SOME OF HIS FORMER STUDENTS BUT THIS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE AND THE GUESTS WERE CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF THEIR INTERESTING BACKGROUNDS.

E. THE PURPOSE OF THE DINNER WAS NOT TO TALK ABOUT

"REPRESSION" IN BRAZIL OR TO ADVANCE THE SECRETARY'S "OPINION THAT BRAZIL SHOULD MOVE TOWARD A LESS AUTHORITARIAN REGIME" BUT RATHER TO HAVE AN UNSTRUCTURED EXCHANGE ON A VERY WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS.

F. THE INACCURACY OF THE REPORT IS WELL INDICATED BY ITS ABSURD REFERENCE TO THE LUNCH WITH RAQUEL WELCH.

4. SILVEIRA HAS JUST CALLED ME (AT AN UNUSUALLY EARLY HOUR FOR HIM) TO INSIST THAT "NO ONE" WAS "WORRIED" ABOUT THE STORY SINCE IT HAD NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED. HE MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT EVERYONE "TRUSTED" THE SECRETARY. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS NOTE TO ME WAS TO MAKE SURE THAT, IN THE EVENT HE DID RECEIVE PRESS INQUIRIES, HE AND THE SECRETARY WOULD BE SAYING THE SAME THING. AFTER I HAD GONE OVER THE POINTS IN PARA 3 ABOVE -- AND HE INDICATED THAT HE KNEW WHO HAD ATTENDED THE DINNER -- HE ASKED ME WHETHER HE COULD SAY THAT THE STORY WAS INACCURATE. I SAID THAT HE COULD.

5. BECAUSE OF THE REFERENCE IN THE AP STORY TO "A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY", ETC., LET ME KNOW BE RETURN TELEGRAM WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING YOU WISH ME TO ADD TO SILVEIRA, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT HE MAY WELL USE IT. OBVIOUSLY, ANYTHING THE EMBASSY MAY SAY, ON A STRICTLY IF-ASKED BASIS, SHOULD BE ON ALL FOURS WITH WHAT FUNSETH SAYS. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS BEING SAID THERE.
CRIMMINS

NOTE BY OC/T: COORDINATED WITH S/SO, MR. HOGAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL01645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0095
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaarrrr.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SILVEIRA'S CONCERN ABOUT TENDENTIOUS AP STORY
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SAN JOSE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006